

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 13-18, cancel claims 2, 3, and 12, and add new claims 19-30 as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating ~~an atopic condition~~ atopic dermatitis, comprising

administering to a subject in need of treatment of ~~an atopic condition~~ atopic dermatitis an immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide 8 to 100 nucleotides long, comprising:



wherein the ~~immunostimulatory nucleic acid~~ includes at least 8 nucleotides and wherein C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 and X_2 are nucleotides, wherein X_1 is selected from the group consisting of A, G, and T, and wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of C and T, in an effective amount to treat the ~~atopic condition~~ atopic dermatitis.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide.

5. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises~~ A method for treating allergic dermatitis, comprising

administering to a subject in need of treatment of allergic dermatitis an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide 8 to 100 nucleotides long, comprising:



wherein the C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 are nucleotides, in an effective amount to treat the allergic dermatitis.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein X_1X_2 is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA.
7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein X_3X_4 is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.
8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein X_1X_2 is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA and wherein X_3X_4 is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.
9. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein $5' X_1X_2CGX_3X_4 3'$ is not a palindrome.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of
TCCATGTCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:37),
TCCATGCCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:38),
TCCATGGCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:39),
TCCATGACGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:40),
TCCATGTCGCTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:42),
TCCATGTCGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:43),
TCCATGACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:44), and
TCCATAACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:45).
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.
12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is 8 to 40 nucleotides in length.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is administered to the subject orally.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is administered to the subject transdermally.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide is administered to the subject by injection.

19. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT.

20. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT and wherein the subject is a human.

21. (new) The method of claim 5, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide.

22. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.

23. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is 8 to 40 nucleotides in length.
24. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.
25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.
26. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject orally.
27. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject transdermally.
28. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject by injection.
29. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT.
30. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT and wherein the subject is a human.